

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Preliminary Amendment is filed prior to initial review of the Application. Non-elected claims 1-5 and 13-16 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 17-29 have been added for consideration by the Examiner.

*Conclusion*

Applicant respectfully requests examination of pending claims 6-12 and 17-29 at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: July 12, 2004

By 

William W. Schaal

Reg. No. 39,018

Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025

---

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8A)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

MAILING

FACSIMILE

deposited with the United States Postal Service  
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and  
Trademark Office.

Date: July 12, 2004

  
Susan McFarlane

July 12, 2004

Date